

PRIORITY

MEMORANDUM FOR: A/NIO-6PF

What does a craft say? I think it would be helpful if someone went to help State sort out what kind of ship this is & when it might sail. See Attached cable for more Turkish incitation w/IVAT over/ meddling

Date

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1832
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHDC
RUFHNA/USMISSION USNATO 2386
RUFRRH/USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE BE
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
RHOLCNE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
RUFROJQ/COMSIXTHFLT
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1007
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 3260
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0829
RUDKSA/AMEMBASSY SOFIA 0874
RUFHBC/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 0294
RUFLEPA/AMCONSUL ADANA 5067
RUFHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 7711
RUFHIZ/AMCONSUL IZMIR 5877
BT

UNCLAS ANKARA 05092

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, NATO, PREL, TU, US, SU, UK
SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS ON "KREMLIN" STRAITS PASSAGE:
MORE FINGERS IN THE PIE

REF: ANKARA 4848 DTG 021421Z MAY 86 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: REMARKS BY BRITISH "STATE MINISTER" BARONESS YOUNG BEFORE THE HOUSE OF LORDS REPORTEDLY TO THE EFFECT THAT THE MONTREUX CONVENTION PROHIBITS THE NEW SOVIET CARRIER FROM TRANSITING THE STRAITS RECEIVED WIDE ATTENTION IN THE PRESS ON MAY 8. JUST AS THE U.S. OFFICIAL'S REMARKS ON MONTREUX DID A FEW DAYS EARLIER (RETEL), YOUNG'S STATEMENTS SPARKED A NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL PRESS ARTICLES AND EDITORIALS THE FOLLOWING DAY. ALL POINT TO INCREASING INTERFERENCE BY NATO ALLIES, PARTICULARLY THE U.S., IN TURKEY'S DECISION ON WHETHER TO ALLOW PASSAGE AND THE PROBLEMS THIS POSES FOR THE GOT. TEXTS IN PARAS 2, 3, AND 4. END SUMMARY.

2. NEWSPAPER: "MILLIYET" (1 TREDAL)

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 R 091418Z MAY 86
 FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
 TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1832
 INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
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2. NEWSPAPER: "MILLIYET" (LIBERAL)
 - DATE: MAY 9, 1986
 - AUTHOR: AYDIN CANDABAK/ABBAS GUCLU
 - HEADLINE: "KREMLIN" PROBLEM

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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 12, 1986

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CONFIDENTIAL
MEMORANDUM

TO: See Distribution

FROM: State EUR/RPM - Jim Davis
PM/ISP - Bill Hickman

SUBJECT: The Montreux Convention and the New Large Soviet
Carrier: Time for a Policy

ILLEGIB

The issue of the passage of the new large Soviet aircraft carrier through the Turkish Straits will not wait for the two to three years required to make it ready for sea trials. With the launch of the new carrier, the question is receiving increasing public and official attention, particularly in Turkey where the press play (see attached cables) is becoming increasingly unhelpful. If assertions in Turkey and elsewhere, e.g. the UK, are not countered quickly with a coordinated program of active consultations, we may well find our options and ability to control events very sharply limited.

A revised draft cable of instructions outlining the opening steps in a consultative game plan on this issue was circulated under cover of a State memo dated March 21, 1986. In view of the pressures cited above and our obvious interest in advancing a US position rather than letting the foreign press do it for us, we believe such instructions should be issued without further delay. We have scheduled a meeting of the ad hoc Montreux Working Group for Thursday May 15 at 1300 in Room 7422 at the Department of State to complete drafting appropriate instructions. All agencies should come prepared to clear the revised draft or offer specific alternative language for consideration.

Please confirm your attendance by calling Bill Hickman on 647-1862.

attachments: Ankara 4848
Ankara 5092

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ROOM NO. BUILDING

REMARKS:

George -
Any input?
We have been involved
normally just to ensure
that the policy makers
knew the latest status
of the carrier. It may
not be necessary for us
to attend this session.

FROM:

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ROOM NO.

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FORM NO.
1 FEB 56 241REPLACES FORM 36-8
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 12, 1986

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Hickmantion and the New Large Soviet
a Policy

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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ACTION EUR-00

4847 EUR7012

ANKARA 05092 00 OF 03 101109Z

4847 EUR7012

ACTION OFFICE TU-02

INFO PMP-01 EUR-05 PMA-01 PMD-01 NE-02 UK-02 PA-02 PMS-01
PM-01 SE-01 FS-01 FILE-01 /021 A3 AS

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 H-01
MMO-01 10-17 NSC-01 NSAE-00 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-10
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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDC
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AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, NATO, PREL, TU, US, SU, UK
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2. NEWSPAPER: "MILLIYET" (LIBERAL)
- DATE: MAY 9, 1986
- AUTHOR: AYDIN CANDABAK/ABBAS GUCLU
- HEADLINE: "KREMLIN" PROBLEM

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE ISSUE OF WHETHER OR NOT THE FIRST SOVIET CARRIER "KREMLIN" WILL BE ALLOWED TO PASS THROUGH THE STRAITS IS GOING TO BECOME A HEADACHE FOR TURKEY. FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT "KREMLIN" PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS WOULD BE A VIOLATION OF THE MONTREUX CONVENTION, OTHER NATO COUNTRIES BEGAN WHISPERING IN TURKEY'S EAR THAT ALLOWING PASSAGE WOULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER ON THE HIGH SEAS AGAINST THE WESTERN ALLIANCE.

LEGAL SCHOLARS AND SCIENTISTS DIFFER ON THE LEGALITIES OF THE PROBLEM. WHILE SOME STATE THAT THE "KREMLIN" CANNOT PASS THROUGH THE STRAITS, OTHERS CITE THE "KIEV" CARRIER PASSAGE IN 1976 AS A PRECEDENT AND SAY THAT "THE SOVIETS LABELED THE 'KIEV' AN ANTI-SUBMARINE CRUISER AND THUS HAD IT PASS THROUGH THE STRAITS. THEY COULD ALSO LABEL THE 'KREMLIN' AS SOMETHING OTHER THAN A NUCLEAR-POWERED CARRIER."

MEANWHILE, AT A SEMINAR TO BE HELD AT MARMARA UNIVERSITY TODAY, THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE MATTER AS WELL AS ITS POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS WILL BE DEBATED.

ANKARA DOES NOT LOOK UPON THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE OF THE ISSUE TOO KINDLY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FOLLOWING BARONESS YOUNG'S ANNOUNCEMENT, SAID THAT MONTREUX SHOULD NOT BE DEBATED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

3. NEWSPAPER: "MILLIYET"
- DATE: MAY 9, 1986
- AUTHOR: NEMMET BARLAS
- HEADLINE: "TWO ACROBATS ON A ROPE..."

IT WILL BE AT LEAST TWO YEARS BEFORE THE "KREMLIN" AIRCRAFT CARRIER IS COMPLETED AT THE NIKOLAYEV KOSENKO DRYDOCKS. BUT ALREADY THE U.S. AND BRITAIN HAVE LAUNCHED A DEBATE OVER WHETHER OR NOT THAT CARRIER MAY PASS THROUGH THE TURKISH STRAITS.

IN FACT, TURKISH DIPLOMACY IS QUITE ACCUSTOMED TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES ADOPTING DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE RIGHT OF PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS ACCORDING TO THE MONTREUX CONVENTION. NONETHELESS, FINAL DECISIONS

ARE ALWAYS MADE BY TURKEY.

RECENT TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS, HOWEVER, HAVE MADE IT QUITE DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING APPLICATIONS CONCERNING THE STRAITS. IN ADDITION, THE U.S. IS EXPENDING INCREASING EFFORTS TO PREVENT ANY SOVIET NAVAL MOVEMENT SOUTHWARD, SINCE THE PRESENT BALANCE OF POWER IN SUPERPOWER POLITICS RESTS ON AN AXIS THAT TRAVERSES THE BLACK SEA, THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.

ONE OF THE MOST OBVIOUS WAYS TO DO THIS IS TO USE THE MONTREUX CONVENTION TO TRY TO KEEP THE SOVIET FLEET BOXED INTO THE BLACK SEA. IT IS SIMILARLY NATURAL TO EXPECT THE SOVIETS TO KEEP OTHER NAVIES AWAY BY ARGUING THAT IT IS A CLOSED SEA.

IN 1968, THE SOVIETS DISPUTED THE PASSAGE OF THE TWO U.S. DESTROYERS "DYESS" AND "TURNER" INTO THE BLACK SEA, AND THEY OBJECTED TO ENTRY OF THE "YORKTOWN" AND "CARON" THIS YEAR. THE PASSAGE OF THE "KIEV" IN 1976 WAS DISPUTED BY THE U.S., AND THE "KREMLIN" WILL MOST PROBABLY SPARK THE SAME KIND OF ARGUMENT.

BUT THE STRAITS CANNOT BE USED AS EITHER THE CAUSE OR THE RESULT OF THE SUPERPOWER ARMS RACE. TURKEY'S DUTY IS TO PROTECT THE STATUS OF THE STRAITS ON THE BASIS OF THE MONTREUX CONVENTION. THE STATEMENT MADE BY BARONESS YOUNG TO THE EFFECT THAT TURKEY VIEWS THE CARRIER ISSUE DIFFERENTLY FROM LONDON OR WASHINGTON IS EVIDENCE THAT TURKEY'S STAND IS AN OBJECTIVE ONE.

4. NEWSPAPER: "TERCUMAN" (CONSERVATIVE)

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Department of State

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- DATE: MAY 9, 1986
- AUTHOR: FANIR ARMAOGLU
- HEADLINE: "THE MONTREUX CONVENTION"

ALREADY THE PASSAGE OF THE "KREMLIN" THROUGH THE TURKISH STRAITS HAS BECOME A DISPUTED ISSUE. THIS DISPUTE WAS INITIATED BY THE U.S., SINCE IT IS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE IDEA OF THE "KREMLIN" ENTERING THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "KREMLIN" MAY UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN. THIS IS WHY THE U.S. KEEPS INTRODUCING THE ISSUE, CLAIMING THAT THE "KREMLIN" MAY NOT PASS THROUGH THE STRAITS.

BRITAIN NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DRAGGED INTO THE DEBATE. FURTHERMORE, THE ENTIRE NATO ALLIANCE MAY ALSO BE DRAGGED INTO THE MATTER AND THE ISSUE RENDERED A NATO ISSUE.

AT THIS POINT, IT MUST BE STRESSED THAT THE U.S. IS NOT A SIGNATORY TO THE MONTREUX CONVENTION OF 1936, AND THUS LEGALLY SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY TIES WITH THIS CONVENTION. THE SOVIETS MADE A WRONG MOVE IN JULY 1945 WHEN THEY GAVE A SAY TO THE U.S. OVER THE MONTREUX CONVENTION. AT THAT TIME, STALIN DEMANDED AMENDMENT OF THE CONVENTION IN ORDER TO OBTAIN HIS IMPERIALIST OBJECTIVES. BUT, BY PLACING HIS DEMANDS BEFORE THE U.S., HE GAVE IT THE RIGHT TO HAVE A SAY ON THE CONVENTION. THE U.S. EXPRESSED ITS VIEWS AT POTSDAM AND GAVE THE SOVIETS UNLIMITED PASSAGE RIGHTS THROUGH THE TURKISH STRAITS. BUT THEN, EVEN WITHOUT POTSDAM, THE U.S. WOULD HAVE HAD A SAY ON THE MONTREUX CONVENTION BY VIRTUE OF ITS STATUS AS A SUPERPOWER.

THE PRESENT U.S. POSITION IS A TOTAL REVERSAL OF ITS PREVIOUS POSITION 40 YEARS AGO. TODAY THE U.S. WOULD

LIKE TO LIMIT PASSAGE THROUGH THE TURKISH STRAITS. THE SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THIS, AS FAR AS TURKEY IS CONCERNED, IS THAT THE U.S. APPEARS INCLINED TO CREATE A SERIOUS ISSUE IN CONNECTION WITH THE TURKISH STRAITS, AND ANY SERIOUS ARGUMENT OF THIS CALIBER WILL INEVITABLY REFLECT ON TURKISH-SOVIET RELATIONS. WE THINK THAT THIS IS ONE OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF PRESENT U.S. POLICY. STRAUSS-HUPE

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AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MOPS, MARR, NATO, PREL, TU, US, SU
SUBJECT: PRESS CITES U.S. PRESSURE TO AHEND MONTREUX
CONVENTION (U)

REFS: (A) 85 ANKARA 8239 DTG 260737Z AUG 85
(B) 85 USNATO 4151 DTG 121517Z JUL 85
(C) 85 ANKARA 8399 DTG 051522Z SEP 85

1. (C) SUMMARY AND COMMENT: "MILLIYET" ON APRIL 29
RAN AN INTERVIEW WITH A DOD OFFICIAL WHO ALLEGEDLY
URGED TURKEY TO CONSULT WITH NATO ALLIES AND MONTREUX
SIGNATORIES PRIOR TO MAKING A DECISION ON STRAITS
PASSAGE OF THE NEW SOVIET CARRIER. COUPLED WITH
ANOTHER STORY UNDER THE HEADLINE "DUAL PRESSURE FROM
THE U.S.," THE ARTICLE CONSTRUED THE OFFICIAL'S
COMMENTS AS A U.S. ATTEMPT TO DILUTE TURKEY'S
JURISDICTION OVER THE STRAITS. THE FOLLOWING DAY,
"CUMHURİYET" CARRIED THE MFA SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT
THAT TURKEY DOES NOT WANT MONTREUX TO BE REGARDED IN
THE CONTEXT OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. AN EDITORIAL IN
THE SAME PAPER STATED THAT THE DECISION ON THE
"KREMLIN'S" PASSAGE WILL BE TURKEY'S ALONE.

2. (C) COMMENT: THE SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSE AND THE
EDITORIAL REFLECT THE GOT ATTITUDE WE HAVE OBSERVED
HERETOFORE ON THIS ISSUE (REF A). THE TURKS ARE VERY
PROTECTIVE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE
MONTREUX CONVENTION AND QUICK TO REACT TO PERCEIVED
INTERFERENCE. THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY ON
THE "KREMLIN" ISSUE WAS STRESSED BY NATO IN REF B
LAST YEAR. WE BELIEVE THAT BRUSSELS IS THE PROPER
PLACE TO WORK TOWARD THIS SOLIDARITY (REF C).
UNOFFICIAL U.S. DISCUSSIONS ON THE ISSUE NOW COULD
INCREASE THE TURKS' RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN A
DIALOGUE AT NATO. THE "CUMHURİYET" ARTICLE'S
PORTRAYAL OF THE INTERVIEW AS AN OFFICIAL STATE
DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL WELL ILLUSTRATES THIS PROBLEM.

FULL TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW AND INFORMAL TRANSLATION
OF THE "CUMHURİYET" ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL IN PARAS 2,
3, AND 4. END SUMMARY AND COMMENT:

3. (U) NEWSPAPER: "MILLIYET" (LIBERAL)
- DATE: APRIL 29, 1986
- AUTHOR: TURAN YAVUZ
- HEADLINE: "DUAL PRESSURE FROM THE U.S."

PRESSURE ON THE "KREMLIN"

ACCORDING TO OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT TURAN YAVUZ
ON THE ISSUE OF PASSAGE OF THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT
CARRIER "KREMLIN" THROUGH THE STRAITS, PHILLIP
PETERSON, ONE OF THE EXPERTS IN THE DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT'S POLITICAL PLANNING OFFICE, SAID THAT THE
NATO ALLIES SHOULD SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE SUBJECT.

IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO "MILLIYET" ON THIS SUBJECT,
PETERSON PROPOSED THAT THE NATO ALLIES AND
SIGNATORIES OF THE MONTREUX CONVENTION SIT DOWN AND
TRY TO REACH A UNIFIED POSITION. PETERSON, WHO
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT TURKEY WAS SITTING IN THE "DRIVER'S
SEAT" ON THE SUBJECT OF STRAITS PASSAGE, SAID THAT
TURKEY DID NOT HAVE TO TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR
THIS ISSUE AND THAT "WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE SOVIETS
TO PRESENT THE WEST WITH A 'FAIT ACCOMPLI'."

"WE HAVE TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT NOW,
BECAUSE TURKEY IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH HAS AN
INTEREST IN IT" PETERSON SAID. IN RESPONSE TO THE
QUESTION OF THE POSITION AMERICA WOULD TAKE IN THE
EVENT TURKEY DECIDED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM ITSELF AND
SAY TO THE U.S. "THIS IS MY PROBLEM, DON'T GET
INVOLVED," PETERSON ANSWERED: "I DON'T MEAN TO SAY
THAT TURKEY CAN'T SAY THIS. TURKEY ASKED US THIS
QUESTION: 'WHAT WILL AMERICA DO IN THE EVENT THE
AIRCRAFT CARRIER TRANSITS THE STRAITS?' TURKEY DOES
NOT HAVE TO SHOULDER THE COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY ON
THIS ISSUE. TURKEY COULD VERY WELL SAY, 'I AM NOT
THE ONLY COUNTRY TO HAVE SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT. WHY
SHOULD I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM ALONE?'
THEREFORE, AS FAR AS I CAN SEE, TURKEY IS IN THE
DRIVER'S SEAT ON THIS ISSUE."

PETERSON, STATING THAT TURKEY HAS A RIGHT TO ASK NOW
FOR THE POSITIONS OF THE OTHER SIGNATORIES, SAID THAT
TURKEY SHOULD FORM A SPECIAL WORKING GROUP IN ORDER
TO CLEAR THE AIR AMONG THE WESTERN ALLIANCE ON THIS
SUBJECT. HE ADDED, "IF TURKEY WERE TO SAY THE
TRANSIT OF THE SOVIET CARRIER IS ALLOWED UNDER THE
CONVENTION, THEN THE OTHER SIGNATORIES WOULD BE HARD
PUT TO SAY THE OPPOSITE."

ON THE OTHER HAND, ACCORDING TO NİLUFER YALCIN FROM
"MILLIYET'S" ANKARA BUREAU, TURKEY DOES NOT ACCEPT
THE IDEA THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE KREMLIN'S PASSAGE
THROUGH THE STRAITS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF NATO.

WHEN WE POSED THE QUESTION TO A HIGH LEVEL MFA
OFFICIAL, HE RESPONDED, "WE HAVE NEVER RECEIVED SUCH
A PROPOSAL, BUT IF WE DID WE WOULD HANDLE IT AS WE
DID EARLIER WITH THE 'KIEV.' THIS IS NOT A NATO
ISSUE, AND IT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ONLY WITH TURKEY."

THE OFFICIAL, POINTING OUT THAT SEVERAL NATO ALLIES
WERE NOT SIGNATORIES TO THE MONTREUX CONVENTION, SAID
THAT WHEN THE WARSHIP "KIEV" WAS TO TRANSIT THE
STRAITS FOUR TO FIVE YEARS EARLIER AND THE BRITISH

Department of State

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PROPOSED THAT NATO DISCUSS THE ISSUE, THE GOVERNMENT
REPLIED, "THE QUESTION HAS BEEN PUT TO TURKEY. COME
AND NEGOTIATE WITH US." BUT HE STATED THAT IN THE
END THIS WAS AS FAR AS THE ISSUE WENT.

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HAVE JURISDICTION OVER THE SAILING OF SOVIET VESSELS
TO THE MEDITERRANEAN FROM THE BLACK SEA AND OVER THE
PASSAGES BY BLACK SEA COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE
SOVIET UNION.

3. NEWSPAPER: "CUMHURİYET" (LEFT-OF-CENTER)
- DATE: MAY 1, 1986
- AUTHOR: NOT LISTED
- HEADLINE: "COLD REPLY TO THE U.S. ON MONTREUX"

ANKARA'S REPLY TO THE U.S., WITH REGARD TO A PROPOSAL
BY THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT THAT PARTIES TO THE
MONTREUX AGREEMENT SIT AND DISCUSS PASSAGE OF THE
SOVIET SHIP "KREMLIN" THROUGH THE STRAITS, CAN BE
BEST TRANSLATED AS "KEEP YOUR NOSES OUT OF MONTREUX."

"KREMLIN'S" ABILITY TO SAIL INTO THE MEDITERRANEAN IS
CREATING CONCERN IN THE U.S. AS WELL AS IN NATO.
ONE OF THE EXPERTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
POLITICAL PLANNING BUREAU, PHILLIP PETERSON, TOLD A
JOURNALIST THAT THE WEST SHOULD NOT ALLOW A SOVIET
FAIT ACCOMPLI WITH REGARD TO "KREMLIN" PASSAGE
THROUGH THE STRAITS. "NATO COUNTRIES AND MONTREUX
CONVENTION SIGNATORIES SHOULD MEET AND DISCUSS THE
ISSUE," HE SAID.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN YALIN ERALP SAID THAT THE
MONTREUX AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. IN SAYING THIS,
THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THE DESIRE OF THE TURKISH
GOVERNMENT THAT THIS ISSUE NOT TURN INTO A FIGHT
BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR. ERALP ADDED: "THIS
AGREEMENT, DESPITE CHANGING CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD,
IS BEING IMPLEMENTED. TURKEY IS VERY SENSITIVE AND
ADHERES TO THE LETTER OF THE AGREEMENT."

ERALP IMPLIED BY THIS THAT TURKEY WILL NOT DISCUSS
MONTREUX. FURTHERMORE, BY MENTIONING CHANGING
CONDITIONS (CARRIERS WERE NOT IN EXISTENCE WHEN
MONTREUX WAS SIGNED), HE IMPLIED THAT TURKEY WILL BE
FLEXIBLE VIS-A-VIS GRANTING PASSAGE TO THE "KREMLIN."

4. NEWSPAPER: "CUMHURİYET"
- DATE: APRIL 30, 1986
- AUTHOR: ALI SIRMEN
- HEADLINE: "BE CAREFUL!"

IN ONE SECTION OF HIS STATEMENT TO ANOTHER NEWSPAPER,
PHILLIP PETERSON IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID: "WE
SHOULD SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THIS MATTER, BECAUSE THIS
SUBJECT IS NOT ONE WHICH CONCERNS ONLY TURKEY." THIS
STATEMENT BY PETERSON REFLECTS A DEMAND THAT THE
UNITED STATES HAS BEEN WANTING TO IMPOSE ON TURKEY
FOR A LONG TIME. IT IS A FACT THAT THE U.S. IS NOT
HAPPY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MONTREUX CONVENTION
AND HAS BEEN DEMANDING ITS AMENDMENT TO COMPLY WITH
"CURRENT CONDITIONS."

WHEN THE SUBJECT IS CONSIDERED AND STUDIED, IT WILL
BE SEEN THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS UNHAPPY, NOT
WITH THE DETAILS, BUT WITH THE ESSENCE OF THE
CONVENTION, WHICH RECOGNIZES THE SOVEREIGNTY OF
TURKEY OVER THE STRAITS AND PASSAGES THEREOF AND THE
PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT ACCORDED TO BLACK SEA
COUNTRIES.

EVEN TODAY, THE U.S. IS NOT HAPPY WITH THESE TWO
PRINCIPLES. IT WANTS TO ELIMINATE THE DIFFICULTIES
THAT OBSTRUCT ITS OWN SHIPS' TRANSIT TO THE BLACK
SEA. THE U.S. WANTS AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS NATO TO

TURKEY IS AWARE THAT SUCH REQUESTS INFRINGE UPON ITS
SOVEREIGN RIGHTS. THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION THINKS,
"WHILE THE MARGARET THATCHER GOVERNMENT HAS
CONFIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES ON SIMILAR MATTERS
AND FINDS SECURITY IN HAVING THIS CONFIDENCE, WHY
SHOULDN'T TURKEY THINK THE SAME WAY?"

TURKEY CANNOT ACCEPT THIS VIEW. ACCORDING TO THE
PRESS REPORT ON THE PETERSON STATEMENT, TURKEY ASKED
THE U.S. ABOUT ITS FUTURE ATTITUDE IF THE SOVIET
UNION REQUESTS PASSAGE FOR ITS AIRCRAFT CARRIER. IF
TURKEY REALLY ASKED SUCH A QUESTION, IT MADE A GRAVE
MISTAKE. TURKEY SHOULD HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT
IT IS THE ONLY COUNTRY HAVING JURISDICTION TO DECIDE
ON THE PASSAGE, THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO DISCUSS, AND
THAT THE SUBJECT IS NOT RELATED IN ANY WAY TO
TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS NOR WITH TURKEY'S
MEMBERSHIP IN NATO.

SOME READERS MAY THINK ARGUMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT
REFLECT AN OVERLY SENSITIVE ATTITUDE; BUT CONSIDERING
THE EPISODE OF THE ROGERS PLAN, WHICH RESULTED IN
JEOPARDIZING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF TURKEY IN
THE AEGEAN, THIS CONCERN IS VERY NORMAL. IT IS ONLY
NORMAL FOR A COUNTRY "TO EAT YOGURT ONLY AFTER
BLOWING ON IT WHEN ITS TONGUE HAS BEEN BURNED
DRINKING HOT MILK." THIS CONCERN SHOULD BE
CONSIDERED NORMAL AT A TIME WHEN THE GOVERNMENT'S
FOREIGN POLICY IS CONCENTRATED ON BALANCING ITS
PRO-ARAB AND PRO-AMERICAN INTERESTS. STRAUSS-NUPE

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